

Appln No. 10/667,248
Amdt date January 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 6, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system comprising ~~at least one a nail, the nail~~ comprising a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal bore defining an inner wall of the nail, and at least one transverse bore, ~~[[(11)]]~~ and ~~at least one a screw~~ ~~[[(15)]]~~, which can be guided through a transverse bore ~~[[(13)]]~~ formed in the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~ the transverse bore being configured so as to define an ~~and defining the~~ orientation and ~~[[the]]~~ a position of the screw ~~[[(15)]]~~ with respect to the longitudinal axis of the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~,

~~wherein at least one~~ the bone fixing system further comprising a clamping member ~~(61, 63)~~ which can be introduced into ~~[[a]]~~ the longitudinal bore ~~(35) of the nail (11)~~ and is axially adjustable in the longitudinal bore ~~[[(35)]]~~ relative to the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~, with the screw guided through the transverse bore ~~[[(13)]]~~ of the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~ being able to be clamped between the clamping member ~~(61, 63)~~ and the inner wall of the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~ bounding the transverse bore ~~[[(13)]]~~ by the displacement of the clamping member ~~(61, 63)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the longitudinal bore ~~[[(35)]]~~ of the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~ is provided with an inner thread section ~~[[(36)]]~~ in which the clamping member ~~[[(61)]]~~ can be screwed.

3. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the clamping member ~~[[(61)]]~~ is made in one piece and is provided in the form of a grub screw.

4. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, ~~wherein~~ at least one comprising a sleeve-like or bushing-like insert (65) is inserted adapted for insertion into the longitudinal bore ~~[[(35)]]~~ of the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~ and ~~has at least one~~ having a passage ~~(64)~~

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aligned adapted for alignment with the transverse bore $[(13)]$ of the nail $[(11)]$ when inserted and the insert being adapted for cooperation with ~~which~~ the clamping member (61) ~~cooperates~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the inner side of the insert $[(65)]$ is provided with an inner thread section $[(66)]$ in which the clamping member $[(61)]$ can be screwed.

6. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the insert $[(65)]$ is made of a first material, ~~a cobalt chromium alloy~~, which has a higher toughness and/or hardness than a second material, ~~titanium or a titanium alloy~~, of the nail $[(11)]$.

7. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the insert $[(65)]$ is rotationally fixedly connected to the nail $[(11)]$.

8. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the insert and the longitudinal bore are adapted for press-fitting or screwing ~~(65) is pressed or serewed~~ into the longitudinal bore $[(35)]$ of the nail $[(11)]$.

9. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein a plurality of transverse bores $[(13)]$ are formed in the nail $[(11)]$ and a clamping member $[(61)]$ is provided for each screw $[(15)]$ which can be guided through one of the transverse bores $[(13)]$.

10. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein a set of nails is provided, each nail having different axial spacings between the plurality of transverse bores, and wherein the axial length of the clamping members is smaller than the smallest axial spacing between two successive transverse bores which is present between the nails ~~having a plurality of nails $[(11)]$, wherein a set of different axial spacings is provided between the nails $[(11)]$ having transverse bores $[(13)]$ and the axial length of the clamping~~

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members ~~[[(61)]]~~ is respectively smaller than the smallest axial spacing between two sequential transverse bores ~~[[(13)]]~~ occurring in the set.

11. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1 comprising a displacement device arranged and adapted for effecting a pulling force on a clamping member, wherein a section of the clamping member ~~[[(63)]]~~ disposed on ~~[[the]]~~ a side of the screw ~~[[(15)]]~~ remote from the displacement device ~~[[(67)]]~~ can be moved against the screw ~~[[(15)]]~~ by the pulling force ~~means of a displacement device (67) by pulling on the clamping member (63).~~

12. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the clamping member when inserted ~~[[(63)]]~~ is freely movable at least in the axial direction ~~[[in]]~~ within the longitudinal bore ~~[[(35)]]~~ of the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~ and comprises a ~~has at least one~~ passage ~~[[(69)]]~~ for the screw ~~(15) which can~~ being arranged and adapted to be aligned with ~~[[the]]~~ a transverse bore ~~[[(13)]]~~ of the nail ~~(11), with the clamping member (63) being made in sleeve shape.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the displacement device ~~[[(67)]]~~ includes a drawing screw which cooperates with a thread section ~~[[(71)]]~~ of the clamping member ~~[[(63)]]~~ and is supported at the nail so as to pull ~~(11) for the drawing of the clamping member [[(63)]]~~ in the axial direction when actuated.

14. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, the nail having multiple transverse bores wherein the clamping member ~~[[(63)]]~~ has a plurality of passages ~~[[(69)]]~~ which are spaced apart from one another in the axial direction and are each arranged and adapted to ~~and can each~~ be aligned with a transverse bore ~~[[(13)]]~~ of the nail ~~[[(11)]]~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the clamping member is adapted to ~~(63) can~~ be deformed in the axial direction by means of the displacement device ~~[(67)]~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 15, comprising having a plurality of screws ~~[(15)]~~, wherein the clamping member ~~[(63)]~~ can be deformed such that the plurality of screws ~~[(15)]~~ spaced apart from one another in the axial direction of the nail ~~[(11)]~~ can each be clamped between the clamping member ~~[(63)]~~ and the inner wall of the nail ~~[(11)]~~ bounding the respective transverse bore ~~[(13)]~~ by the displacement of the clamping member.

17. (Currently Amended) A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11 comprising a, ~~wherein at least one~~ securing member ~~(73), a securing screw, is provided~~ which can be moved ~~from the outside~~ through ~~[(the)]~~ a side wall of the nail ~~[(11)]~~ into ~~[(its)]~~ the longitudinal bore ~~[(35)]~~ and by which the clamping member ~~[(63)]~~ can be fixed in ~~[(its)]~~ a starting position relative to the nail ~~[(11)]~~ prior to the actuation of the displacement device ~~[(67)]~~.

18. (New) A bone fixation system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the first material is a cobalt chromium alloy.

19. (New) A bone fixation system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the second material comprises titanium.

20. (New) The bone fixation system of claim 12, wherein the clamping member has a sleeve shape.

21. (New) The bone fixation system of claim 17, wherein the securing member is a securing screw.

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22. (New) The bone fixation system of claim 1, wherein the at least one transverse bore is essentially circular in cross section.

23. (New) A bone fixation nail comprising a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal bore, and at least one transverse bore,
wherein the at least one transverse bores has an essentially circular cross-section, and
wherein the longitudinal bore comprises a threaded section.

24. (New) A bone fixation nail comprising: a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal bore, and at least one transverse bore, the at least one transverse bore having a first transverse bore section and a second transverse bore section,
wherein the at least one transverse bore has an essentially circular cross-section,
wherein the first transverse bore section and the second transverse bore section are located on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the longitudinal bore; and
wherein the longitudinal bore has a threaded section adjacent the first transverse bore section and the second transverse bore section.

25. (New) A bone fixation nail comprising: a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal bore, and at least one transverse bore, the at least one transverse bores having an essentially circular cross-section; the longitudinal bore being adapted to receive a bushing-like or sleeve-like member.

26. (New) The bone fixation nail of claim 25, the longitudinal bore comprising a threaded section to receive a threaded section of the bushing-like or sleeve-like member.

27. (New) The bone fixation nail of claim 25, the longitudinal bore comprising a press-fit section for receiving a press-fit section of the bushing-like or sleeve-like member.